

process each rank within the range specified, but will stop after the first rank (in descending order of concentration) that is below the threshold, specified by the user. A warning message will be generated if the threshold is not reached within the range of ranks analyzed (based on the range of ranks specified on the RECTABLE keyword). This option may be needed to aid in determining which sources to include in a nonattainment area.

Ideally, all explicitly modeled sources, receptors, and background should be modeled in one AERMOD run for all modeled years. In this case, the use of the one of the above output options can be used in AERMOD to calculate design values for comparison to the NAAQS and determine the area's attainment status and/or inform attainment/nonattainment boundaries. The use of these options in AERMOD allows AERMOD to internally calculate concentration metrics that can be used to calculate design values and therefore lessen the need for large output files, i.e. hourly POSTFILES.

However, there may be situations where a single AERMOD run with all explicitly modeled sources is not preferred. These situations often arise due to runtime or storage space considerations during the AERMOD modeling. Sometimes separate AERMOD runs are done for each facility or group of facilities, or by year, or the receptor network is divided into separate sub-networks. In some types of these situations, the MAXDAILY, MXDYBYR, or MAXDCONT output option may not be an option for design value calculations, especially if all sources are not included in a single run. If the user wishes to utilize one of the three output options, then care should be taken in developing the model inputs to ensure accurate design value calculations.

Situations that would effectively preclude the use of the MAXDAILY, MXDYBYR, and MAXDCONT option to calculate meaningful AERMOD design value calculations include the following examples:

- Separate AERMOD runs for each source or groups of sources.
 - Designations modeling includes 10 facilities for five years of NWS data and each facility is modeled for five years in a separate AERMOD run, resulting in 10 separate AERMOD runs.
- Separate AERMOD runs for each source and each modeled year.
 - 10 facilities are modeled for 5 years of NWS data. Each facility is modeled separately for each year, resulting in fifty individual AERMOD runs.

In the two situations listed above, the MAXDAILY, MXDYBYR, or, MAXDCONT option would not be useful as the different AERMOD runs do not include a total concentration with contributions from all facilities. In these situations the use of hourly POSTFILES, which can be quite large, and external post-processing would be needed to calculate design values.